

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 661

By Black

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor L Troop, 3rd Platoon, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, L Troop, 3rd Platoon, 278th Regimental Combat Team, and the 3rd Platoon attached to the 1st Division of the 4th Cavalry and 3rd Infantry Division for their dutiful service to the citizens of Tennessee and the United States.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer. Always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our State and Nation, thousands of our citizens continue the time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee National Guard today; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee National Guard selflessly serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Army National Guard will honor L Troop, 3rd Platoon, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, L Troop, 3rd Platoon, 278th Regimental Combat Team, and the 3rd Platoon attached to the 1st Division of the 4th Cavalry and 3rd Infantry Division at the Gallatin Freedom Salute Ceremony; and

WHEREAS, the Gallatin Freedom Salute Ceremony recognizes and honors those citizen-soldiers of the Gallatin community and the State of Tennessee who have fought in Operation Iraqi Freedom to uphold the principles and freedoms we all hold dear; and

WHEREAS, trained for reconnaissance cavalry operations, L Troop of the 3/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment received its alert for deployment on March 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, reassigned as a regimental combat team and retrained for infantry duties, L Troop of the 3/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment moved to Camp Shelby in Mississippi for five months of training before reporting for duty in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III; and

WHEREAS, L Troop, 3rd Platoon, 278th Regimental Combat Team operated out of Forward Operating Base Cobra with a platoon also attached to Forward Operating Base Wilson; and

WHEREAS, Troop L supported the 278th Regimental Combat Team's main effort by conducting over 2000 missions and logging 6000 hours, conducting over fifty raids, capturing over 150 insurgents, and seizing improvised explosive devices, unexploded ordinances, and weapon caches; and

WHEREAS, this courageous group of soldiers also trained, evaluated, and mentored two Iraqi Army Companies and two Iraqi Police Headquarters; and

WHEREAS, L Troop of the 3/278th Regimental Combat Team provided security for two cities, Jalula, with a population of 45,000, and As Sadiya, with a population of 35,000, during the January 2005 and October 2005 Iraqi elections; and

WHEREAS, the 3rd Platoon was attached to the 1st Division of the 4th Cavalry and 3rd Infantry Division at Forward Operating Base Wilson, where its members provided base security and conducted over 700 missions during their down time; and

WHEREAS, L Troop of the 3/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, L Troop of the 3/278th Regimental Combat Team, and the 3rd Platoon attached to the 1st Division of the 4th Cavalry and 3rd Infantry Division had three Purple Heart recipients and nine Bronze Star recipients; and

WHEREAS, these intrepid men and women from Tennessee are unselfishly paying the price of freedom for their friends, families, and all of us as they sacrifice their time, safety, and personal desires; and

WHEREAS, proudly upholding the ideal of the citizen soldier, an essential tradition of American society, these gallant soldiers are serving on our behalf, boldly and without hesitation or complaint, just as they have left behind the enduring warmth of family and home; and

WHEREAS, their courageous service stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of their bravery and sacrifice, these estimable soldiers will be honored during the Gallatin Freedom Salute Ceremony; and

WHEREAS, these courageous soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans, and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor L Troop, 3rd Platoon, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, L Troop, 3rd Platoon, 278th Regimental Combat Team, and the 3rd Platoon attached to the 1st Division of the 4th Cavalry and 3rd Infantry Division for their dutiful service to the citizens

of Tennessee and the United States, commend them upon their bravery in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.